MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) :

239. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 16,608 under Demand V by Re. 1.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI :

240. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 16,608 under Demand V by Rs. 5.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED :

241. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 16,608 under Demand V by Rs. 10.

MR. R. S. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI:

242. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 16,608 under Demand V by Rs. 40.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The question is that the House sanctions a demand for Rs. 16,608 minus Rs. 5 under Demand V—Taxes on Income.

The grant was made.

DEMAND VI—EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): May I come to the front, Sir, so that I may be heard ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Oh, yes.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs 6,30,625 under Demand VI—Excise Department.

Motion 243.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*) : Sir, I beg to make the following motion :

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,280 for establishment by Rs. 1,000.
(To urge the need for the abolition of the Salt Factories Division.)

Sir, my object in making this motion is to urge upon the Government the desirability of amalgamating the two Excise Divisions known as the Excise Division, Nagercoil, and the Salt Factories Division. There are twelve Excise Divisions in the State of which the Salt Factories Division is one. This is under the charge of an officer of the status of an Assistant Excise Commissioner. There is another division known as the Nagercoil Excise Division which is also under the charge of an Assistant Excise Commissioner. These two divisions lie very close to one another. Rather, the Salt Factories Division is territorially a part of the Nagercoil Excise Division. The total area of the Salt Factories, to be administered by the Salt Factories Division officer, is 1,194 acres. It consists of about 13 Salt factories ; and we have got seven Inspectors to administer the internal affairs of the Salt factories. The average area to be administered by each Inspector works out to 170 acres.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : What is the sort of supervision which these Inspectors and the Assistant Excise Commissioner are expected to conduct ?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*) : The Assistant Excise Commissioner is expected to co-ordinate the activities of the several Inspectors and the Inspectors have to attend to the manufacture of salt.

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MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): Who manufactures salt?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): Salt is manufactured by the licensees.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): What does 'attending to the manufacture' mean?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): They have to see that the provisions of the Salt Regulation are not infringed by the licensees.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Who is the present licensee for salt?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): There are several licensees.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): And, the member cannot remember any one of them?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): There are several licensees; I myself am one of them.

Of the 13 factories included in the Salt Factories Division, as many as 11, I believe, are closely packed together and they are within a small area. The Assistant Excise Commissioner in charge of these factories has practically only to go round these 1,194 acres; and I do not think he has got sufficient work all the year round. He has simply to go round and watch the work of these Inspectors. He has practically nothing to do with the internal management of the several factories—I mean—the work of manufacturing the salt. To substantiate my position, I would only point out that the Excise Division of Nagercoil and the Salt Factories Division have been under the charge of one Assistant Excise Commissioner on several occasions; and I would draw the attention of the House to the fact that Mr. T. V. Ramakrishna Aiyar was in charge of both the divisions for about 6 months continuously from 13-9-1104 till about 30-3-1105. Again, Mr. A. Raman Pillai was in charge of both the divisions for about another six months from 1-1-1103 till 19-6-1103. I understand that one Assistant Commissioner was in charge of both the divisions on previous occasions too. I do not think and the figures I have cited will also substantiate my position—that the interests of Government were in any way affected by both the divisions being in charge of one Assistant Commissioner. If the interests of the Government are to be estimated from the outturn of salt from all the factories put together, it would be seen that when Mr. Raman Pillai was in charge of both the divisions the maximum quantity of salt in any of these years was produced.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): How long was he in charge of both the divisions?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): He was in charge of both the divisions for about six months in the year 1103.

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MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): And Mr. Ramakrishna Aiyar?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): He was in charge of both the divisions in 1104.

DEPUTY PRESIENT: Was it in the nature of an experiment to see how the two divisions could be worked under one Assistant Commissioner?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): It was a mere accident. There was some administrative inconvenience or some such difficulty. Any how, Sir, in the year 1103 when Mr. Raman Pillai was in charge of both the divisions, as much as 9 lacs of maunds were produced in all the factories put together. That figure by itself is sufficient to corroborate my statement that the outturn is not going to be affected in any way by both the divisions being put under one Assistant Excise Commissioner.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know from the member whether the officers or the seasonal conditions are more responsible for better outturn of salt?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): I was answering only with reference to the point whether the interests of Government would in any way be affected. The interests of Government are not going to be affected by one officer being in charge of both these duties. Of course, the outturn is due to several causes.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is there anything connected with his duties that necessitates the presence of an Assistant Excise Commissioner in the allom area?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): He has necessarily to go to the allom; but he has only to co-ordinate the work of the Inspectors.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): May I know where the Assistant Excise Commissioner of the Salt Factories Division usually lives?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): I think he usually lives at Nagercoil.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): How many miles is Nagercoil from the factories?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): About 5 or 6 miles.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): Where is the Nagercoil Excise Division Officer living?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I rise to a point of order. The member asks the question without rising from his seat.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): The Nagercoil Excise Division Officer lives at Nagercoil.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): So, both are at Nagercoil?

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MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): Presumably.

The average outturn, I take it, is 7 to 8 lacs of maunds per annum from all these factories put together. This outturn is not going to be affected at all by the two divisions being put in charge of one Assistant Commissioner.

Speaking from my own experience as an important salt licensee I can say that the administration of the Salt Department will not be affected by the two divisions being amalgamated and placed in charge of one Assistant Excise Commissioner.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Would you kindly detail the particulars of work that the salt Assistant Commissioner has to do? What is the nature of the work that he has to do?

MR. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): Practically the Assistant Commissioner in charge of the Salt Factories has to check the work of the Inspectors and has nothing to do with the outturn or the manufacture of salt in the several factories. Probably he has to check whether the rules, relating to storage of salt particularly, are being strictly complied with by the licensees, and whether the rules are being enforced by the Inspectors. But this does not occupy any very great length of time. It is carried on only during a very limited portion of the year. Most of the time of the Assistant Excise Commissioner is probably taken up only by correspondence. That any administrative inconvenience will not be caused can be seen from the fact that both the divisions have been for a long time under the charge of one Assistant Commissioner without the interests of Government being affected. On these grounds I urge that the allotment of Rs. 2,280 for establishment be reduced by Rs. 1,000.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): In supporting the motion brought forward by Mr. Chattanatha Karayalar I have to add that we should be able to gather from his own statement that the work of the Assistant Excise Commissioner, in charge of the Salt Factories is only one of administrative control of his subordinates actually engaged in directly supervising the manufacture of salt, *viz*, the 7 Inspectors that he has been speaking about and a number of subordinates. He is said to be going round the factories. Mr. Karayalar is one of the biggest of our salt licensees and as he has made out such a very strong case for the reduction of a big office in these times of financial stringency, I think the House will have to accept it. If he would be affected by any inadequate.....

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnaltur*): Affected in what way, favourably or unfavourably?

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): The better the supervision, particularly for an absentee licensee like himself, the better for his own interest—Government interests are not opposed to his interests. If the salt manufacture is better and the outturn increases, he will get profits

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[Mr. M. Govindan.]

so that I think his interests and the interest of the Government do not clash. When a statement comes from him that such a big office is not necessary we may assume that it will be accepted by the Excise Commissioner, who, I know, is very particular about reducing superfluous appointments and who is very zealous about his economy. He would liberally come forward and accept the suggestion and undertake to consider the reduction. With these words, I support the motion brought forward by Mr. Chattanatha Karayalar.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : I listened to Mr. Karayalar with great interest. The motion tabled for discussion relates to the abolition of the Salt Factories Division, but I think much of what he spoke referred to the amalgamation of the two divisions and not the abolition of the Salt Factories Division. Salt forms an important item in the economy of the State. It forms an important branch of the Excise Department. I believe the Excise Department was re-organised about the year 1081 and for some years, that is up 1089, the Salt Factories division was being managed by the Circle Officer in charge of the Nagercoil Division. As that arrangement was found to be extremely unsatisfactory, that was given up and a new division was formed, called the Salt Factories Division; and it has been working till now. Well, if I remember aright, even before the formation of the Excise Department, salt formed a separate branch on the revenue side. There was an officer called the Salt Division Peishkar who was administering the salt revenue.

In point of Government interest, it fetches about 18 lakhs of rupees — in the year 1105 it fetched Rs. 18·75 lakhs - and in point of administration it is no less important. As my friend himself said there are 7 Inspectors, 39 Petty Officers and 135 peons and an officer is absolutely necessary to supervise the work of these men. His duty consists not only in supervising the quality of the salt manufactured by the licensee but also in trying to increase the output of salt year after year. Even in this Council Hall persistent recommendations have been made to induce the department to increase the output year after year. And then, Sir, there are also several licensees.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : As a result of such recommendations has there been any an increase in the output of salt?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : Before the year 1102, the average output was 4·84 lakhs of maunds per annum. From 1103 to 1105, the average has come up to 8·5 lakhs.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : The average is taken for how many years?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : I have statistics for ten years from which I have calculated the average. The average output between 1103 and 1105 comes to 8·48 lakhs of maunds per annum.

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MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : When was this new division constituted?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): As I said, in the year 1089.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Was there any increase in the output of salt during the last two years?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes, during 1103 the total output was 9,87,515 maunds; during 1104 it was 7,64,413 maunds and during 1105 it was 7,93,965 maunds.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): So, it has fallen from 9 to 7 lakhs?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Taking the standard of 1103, the output has fallen. But when compared to the output in previous years it has increased.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : I want to know whether it was not due to seasonal conditions.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): In the year 1100 the whole salt might have been washed away by the floods. Is that also included in this calculation of the out turn?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : When questions are put to me from two different quarters, I do not know where to turn.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You answer Mr. Govindan first.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : It was washed away only after it was manufactured. It could not have been washed away before.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*) : Is that included in the outturn?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : Surely.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : How could it be washed away before it was manufactured?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : That was what I said.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*) : When did the outturn reach the level of 8 lakhs for the first time?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : I said in 1103.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*) : What about 1102?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): It was 7·86 lakhs of maunds.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): What was the outturn in 1089 when the Salt Division was constituted?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I am sorry I have not got figures now.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: As a general proposition you say that there has been a steady increase in the quanity manufactured after the creation of a separate office?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes. I was saying that repeated recommendations have been made by members of this Council with a view to induce the department to increase the output. My friend asked me what was the effect of the recommendation. I say this is the effect of the recommendation. I just got a telegram to the effect that the total out-put during this year is 9,59,000 maunds of which eight hundred and forty five thousand maunds have been stored and the rest unstored. That is the telegram I got just now.

Sir, it is my view that to devote attention to salt culture and to see that good quality of salt is manufactured, the presence of an officer there is absolutely necessary.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): Is it the opinion of the member that bad salt was being manufactured before the separation of the two divisions?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I said 'to improve the quality'.

There is one more point to be considered. As I said at the time when my friend interrupted me, there are severel licensees there and their interests do not ordinarily agree. They sometimes come into conflict, and for the settlement of these disputes in which often rich and influential persons are involved an officer of a higher status than an Inspector seems to be absolutely necessary. For these reasons I would oppose the motion tabled for discussion, *viz.*, for the abolition of the Salt Division.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Does the member mean to suggest that the Assistant Commissioner will always be available at the spot?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): His headquarters is at Tamaracolam.

MR. S KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I want to know whether he is there always?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Sometimes he will be at Rajakkamangalam, sometimes at Colachel, he has business there also.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Suppose a breach of the peace occurs?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): The Assistant Excise Commissioner has nothing to do with breaches of the peace.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Let it be quarrels or bickerings. You require a senior officer to decide these quarrels. Suppose there are bickerings at one place and the Assistant Commissioner is at another place?

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MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): He will have to come up at once. He will be able to hear the bickerings and run up.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Suppose it is not possible for him to hear of these bickerings. Sir, all that I wanted to impress was that that will not be justification enough for the continuance of his division.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): It is not a case as the member thinks of one man trying to cut the throat of another.

It is only the case of licensees claiming some sort of preference. It is a question that has to be carefully heard and decided. It was therefore that I suggested that an Assistant Excise Commissioner at Nagercoil might be unable to do it. For this purpose it is enough if he is somewhere near the salt factories.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Assistant Excise Commissioner at Nagercoil has a wider range to cover.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): May I know the distance between Tamaracolam and Nagercoil?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): 7 miles.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): How does the presence of a full-time Assistant Commissioner help to increase the output?

MR. P GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): There will be constant supervision. The Assistant Excise Commissioner will be going out frequently.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Does the member expect an increased output by constant supervision?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I believe so.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know how that increase would be obtained?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Some licensees may neglect their pans.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is it not to their detriment?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): If the licensees neglect their pans they do not suffer any pecuniary loss, for it is only when they put money that they get money.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Does the Excise Commissioner supply them with funds?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): He does not supply them with funds but he hands them up for punishment.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): What is the area of the jurisdiction of the Nagercoil Assistant Excise Commissioner?

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MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): He is in charge of three taluks Tovala, Agastisvaram and Kalkulam.

MR. RAMAVARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): അളത്തിൽ ഉപ്പുകൃഷി ചെയ്തില്ലെങ്കിൽ അവരെശിക്ഷിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): ലൈസൻസ് ക്യാൻസൽചെയ്യുകയും സസ്പെൻഡുചെയ്യുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ട്.

MR. RAMAVARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): അളം പണംകൊടുത്തു് വാങ്ങിക്കുന്നതല്ലെ?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLI (*Excise Commissioner*): അളത്തിനല്ല, വസ്തുവിനാണു് പണംകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു്.

MR. RAMAVARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): പണംകൊടുത്തു് വസ്തു വാങ്ങിച്ചിട്ടു് അതിൽ കൃഷിചെയ്യാതെയിരുന്നാൽ അവർക്കു നഷ്ടം വരികയില്ലേ?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): പണം കൊടുത്തു് വാങ്ങിച്ചിട്ടു് ചിലർ വെറുതെ ഇട്ടു എന്നുവരാം.

MR. RAMAVARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): പാവപ്പെട്ടവർക്കു് ഉപദ്രവംവരുത്താതെ അവരെക്കൊണ്ടു് കൃഷിചെയ്യിക്കാവുന്നതാണു്. അവരെ ഇങ്ങിനെ ഉപദ്രവിക്കുന്നതു് അക്രമമാണു്.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): May I know from the member whether on the floor of this House, any substantial complaint was raised against the present Allom Commissioner?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I am not aware.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Could not the Inspector see whether the licensees neglect their alloms and report the matter to the Commissioner?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): As I said, it requires an officer of some status. In the case of rich and influential people quarrelling with one another, an officer of some status has to deal with the matter.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is it to report about the neglected conditions of the alloms?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Not to report, but to take action. Report forms the basis of action, that is the first thing.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): And who is to cancel licenses?

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MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): The Commissioner himself.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): So, cannot the Inspector report the matter to the Commissioner?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Should there not be an enquiry held in the matter? So, there must be an intermediate officer.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): So am I to understand that the Commissioner cancels licenses without any enquiry.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): The Inspector will first report the matter.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Who is the gentleman that institutes an enquiry? Is it the Assistant Commissioner or the Commissioner?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): The Excise Commissioner.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): In his absence probably the Assistant Commissioner could do that.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): That does not necessarily follow.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know, the number of Inspectors in the Nagercoil Division?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Two.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It comprises three taluks.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): And, the number in the salt division?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Seven Inspectors.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What is the average number of Inspectors under an Assistant Excise Commissioner?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): In one division there is only one. In some, there are 6. That depends upon the nature of the work done.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): If the mover's object is to amalgamate the two places and not to abolish the Salt Factories Division, has the Excise Commissioner any objection to that proposal?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): In fact such a proposal is pending before Government.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know whether the work to be done by the Assistant Commissioner does not depend upon the number of Inspectors under him.

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MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : That is only a factor to be taken into consideration.

MR. RAMAVARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): സർ, ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ ചോദിച്ചചോദ്യത്തിനു കിട്ടിയ മറുപടിയിൽനിന്നും എനിക്കു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നതു് അളങ്ങം വിലകൊടുത്തുവാങ്ങിച്ചു് അതിൽ കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നതിനു് ലൈസൻസുവാങ്ങിക്കുന്നു എന്നാണു്. സാധാരണയായി ഉപ്പളങ്ങളിലെ കായ്ത്തിൽമാത്രമെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നു് കൃഷിചെയ്യിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു നിർബന്ധിക്കുകയും കൃഷിചെയ്തില്ലെങ്കിൽ അവരുടെലൈസൻസ് ക്യാൻസൽ ചെയ്കയും ചെയ്യുവരുന്നുള്ളൂ. ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ വല്ലവിധത്തിലും കൃഷിചെയ്യിക്കാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നതു പോലെ നമ്മുടെ നിലങ്ങളിലും മറും നിർബന്ധമായി കൃഷിചെയ്യിക്കുന്നതിനു് ആളില്ലാതെയാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: നിലങ്ങളിലുംമറും കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നതിനു് അഗ്രികൽച്ചറൽ ലോൺ കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടല്ലൊ.

MR. RAMAVARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): നിലങ്ങൾ കൃഷിഡിപാർട്ടുമെൻറുവക ലൈസൻസു പിടിച്ചല്ല കൃഷിനടക്കുന്നതു് ഉപ്പളംസംബന്ധിച്ച ജോലികാർക്കു് ഇതുയും പണം ചിലവാക്കുന്നതു് കൃഷിചെയ്യാൻ മനസ്സില്ലാത്തവരെ കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചു് ശിക്ഷിക്കുന്ന ജോലിമാത്രം ചെയ്യുന്ന ആഫീസറന്മാർക്കുവേണ്ടിയാണു്.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): അവരെ ശിക്ഷിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നില്ല.

MR. RAMAVARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*) : അവരുടെ ലൈസൻസ് കാൻസൽചെയ്യുന്നതു് അവരെ ശിക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനു് തുല്യമാണു്.

ഈയൊരു സംഗതിചെയ്യുന്നതിനുമാത്രം ഇതുയും ആഫീസേർസ് വേണമെന്നെനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു മി. കരയാളരുടെ അഭിപ്രായത്തോടു ഞാൻ യോജിക്കുന്നു.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : What do you say, Mr. Karayalar? The Excise Commissioner says that the matter is pending before Government. Does this Rs. 1000 include the establishment of the Salt Excise Division?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*) : It is Rs. 2,280. I propose to reduce it by Rs. 1000.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : For what purpose?

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MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): To urge the amalgamation of the two divisions.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is not in the nature of a token motion.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): I make a substantial cut in the establishment.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: By a substantial cut, will it be possible for the department to carry on work?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): The object of my motion mentioned in this paper is not necessarily the object of my motion. It is only an indication of the object of the motion.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: If it is a token motion, such a big amount is not put in for reduction. Only a nominal cut is suggested for that purpose, so that taking advantage of that you may discuss the principle of retaining an extra Assistant Commissioner at Nagercoil.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): I shall have a substantial reduction in the establishment. If the department can carry on with 1280 rupees, I would be satisfied.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is it possible to do that?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): I do not know. Probably if the two divisions are amalgamated, the work could be carried on. That is my view of the matter.

The Excise Commissioner made much of the point that the constitution of a separate Salt Division has contributed to a substantial increase in the out-put of salt.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Not exactly that.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): He said so.

The constitution of a separate division was made in the year 1089. As a matter of fact it is not exactly the constitution of a separate Salt Division that contributed to the substantial increase in the out-put. It was due to the existence of a number of salt factories coming into being in recent years, after the constitution. It is the additional factories which have contributed substantially to the increased out-put.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Is that not an additional reason, *viz.*, the formation of new factories, for the retention of the Salt Factories Division?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): The administration of the Salt Division can be as well carried on by one officer in charge of both the divisions as has been testified to by the out-turn of work during the period of Messrs. Ramakrishna Iyer and Raman Pillai. As a matter of fact, in 1103, those two divisions were under one Assistant Excise Commissioner. When Mr. Raman Pillai was in charge of both the Divisions there was a record out-put so that there is no point in saying that if the salt division is in charge of one officer, there will be a substantial increase in out-put.

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[Mr. S. Chattanatha Karayalar.]

The Excise Commissioner made a point by saying that the Salt Department is an important department and is contributing 18 lakhs of rupees to the State Revenue. This 18 lakhs is contributed not only by the Salt Factories but by the salt trade that the Government are carrying on; and the Assistant Commissioner in charge of the Salt Factories is not responsible for it nor is he in charge of the salt trade.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There is importation of salt.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): So then, the point urged by the Excise Commissioner cannot stand.

Then the Commissioner would have it, that, if the Excise Division Officer is in charge of the Salt Factories, waste pans left uncultivated would be cultivated under his supervision. As a matter of fact, he has nothing to do with the cultivation of pans. There is the Inspector in charge of every factory and he takes care to see that the maximum out-turn is produced from the allom under his charge, and it is the interest of the licensee to manufacture as much as possible.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): He says that every licensee is interested in turning out the maximum out-put from his pans. But is it a fact that the old allom and the factories surrounding it are producing the maximum? Is not the production there far below the standard obtained in his own factories.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): That is because of the system under which the licensees of the old allom are working *viz.*, the monopoly system. That has to be thrown over-board. They are working under a handicap.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): What about the Avadhanikal's Allom?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): That is because of internal dissensions.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Are these licensees generally of a quarrelling nature?

MR. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): Not all, but some. Human nature is, what it is everywhere.

So that there is no point, in saying, that because there is an Assistant Commissioner in charge of the Salt Factories, licensees would not leave their pans idle.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Just for information, may I know how many of these alloms are the member's allom?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): I have got one salt factory of my own, and I am interested in another as a share-holder. So, the argument advanced by the Excise Commissioner in favour of the retention of the Salt factories Division does not stand.

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MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Does the member find the existence of Assistant Commissioners a nuisance? We would be able to attach sufficient importance if we get this information from my friend, since it is coming from one amonnst us and, as a result of his personal experience.

MR. S CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): I have got experience of the working of salt factories; and so I urge, in the interest of economy, particularly at this juncture when we are suffering from financial stringency, and when the whole department can be managed as efficiently as possible by one officer. I am for the abolition of the Salt Factories Division.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is it the opinion of the member that when financial stringency disappears an Assistant Commissioner may be put in.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): Not necessarily. Such a thing was done when Mr. Raman Pillai was the Assistant Excise Commissioner. Since it was done in the past without any detriment to efficiency, I am not for the retention of the Salt Factories Division as a separate division.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Will it be advantageous to the licensees in any way if there is no supervision by a separate Assistant Excise Commissioner?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): There is no relaxation of control anticipated. There is the Assistant Commissioner at Nagercoil who is supposed to exercise control. He can do it very effectively. He is more or less the man at the place. As a matter of fact the Assistant Commissioner in charge of the Salt Factory resides at Nagercoil.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know who has heavier work. Is it the Nagercoil Assistant Commissioner or the Salt Factories Assistant Commissioner.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): I am only concerned with the work of the Salt Factories Division Officer. This is all I have to say.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I believe he has only two Inspectors under him.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): My friend wanted to make much of the fact that there was greater out-put when one officer was in charge of the two divisions. That was purely an accident. During that year, I remember, there was a vacancy and there was delay in filling it up. So, the Officer at Nagercoil was put in charge of this office temporarily. During 1103 also such a thing happened. The real cause that contributed to the increase in out put was severe drought. In 1103 there was a drought. This year also conditions are not much better in point of rain. Less the rain more the out-put.

In regard to the amalgamation proposal I want to add one word more. The proposal is to amalgamate the Nagercoil Division with the Salt Factories Division.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is, there is to be only one Assistant Commissioner for the Salt Division and the Nagercoil Excise Division?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes. There is not much work in the Nagercoil Excise Division. So there is a proposal pending consideration of Government. If my friend feels satisfied with that explanation I request him to withdraw this motion.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What is the proposal?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Amalgamation of two divisions.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): Will that effect more saving than the one proposed by my friend.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): That forms part of a general scheme which costs a trifle more.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): So there is no saving.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): That scheme costs more and it involves other interests also.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): As a result of another scheme the Commissioner thinks that this will be amalgamated?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKOM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, and that scheme is for all the divisions.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): When was that first taken into consideration?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Some months ago.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Then the Commissioner felt that there was no necessity for having two Assistant Commissioners at Nagercoil and in the alloms.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it a proposal to amalgamate the whole of the Nagercoil Salt Division or to amalgamate a portion of the Nagercoil Salt Division with the Factories Division.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): The whole Nagercoil Excise Division with the Salt Factory Division.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): So, the Commissioner is in agreement with what is suggested here. Then why so much talk.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I myself said that.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): When is this scheme likely to come into effect?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): It is not possible for me to say anything more than that.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): In view of the assurance given by the Commissioner that the matter is receiving the attention of the Government, I withdraw the motion.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I take it that the House gives permission to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The following motions were not moved.

Motions 244 and 245.

MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR :

244. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,81,274 for Salt by Re. 1.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED :

245. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,81,274 for Salt by Rs. 10.

Motion 246.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*) : Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,937 for establishment by Rs. 3.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it the Ruling of the Chair that this motion is in order ? Sometimes, we are not allowed to speak on the policy of the department under 'Establishment'.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : His is a token motion to reduce the allotment for establishment by Rs. 3.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Sometimes we are allowed to discuss, and sometimes we are not, the policy of the department under Establishment. So, I want to know whether this motion of Mr. Tarakan is in order and whether we can discuss the question of policy of the department under it.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I do not think you are disallowed to discuss the policy of the department under 'Establishment'. This is a motion which suggests a cut under the total allotment.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : The policy of the department may be discussed to the extent that arises under the head 'Commissioner'.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I will ask the members who have sent these motions what exactly they meant when sending the motion. Mr. Tarakan, I think you want to discuss the question of policy of the department. Then, Mr. Kocheepan Mappilla, you want to discuss about prohibition. Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai, probably, you want to discuss the Excise policy. Without going further, all these motions we may consider as identical in substance. I allow Mr. Tarakan to move his motion.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Is it your opinion that the general policy of the department can be discussed under the head "Establishment".

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Under the head 'Establishment' only.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Karikapallai*) : Last year, there was a specific ruling from the Chair—

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Without going further into the question of policy, when there are several motions involving identical subjects to be supported by identical reasons, under Standing Orders, I think, Mr. Tarakan can move his motion.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): That Standing Order was read out just to show that identical motions could not be moved. Last year, this point was specifically raised. When the demand under General Administration came, there was a motion under Establishment, and it was ruled that we could only point out the defects in the Establishment and suggest reforms and not discuss the policy of the Department or of the Government.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: As a matter of convenience, without committing myself, it will be more satisfactory, if you discuss the question of policy under the head of reduction in the total allotment instead of repeating it at every stage. That is the object of sending token motions. And a healthier procedure will be to reserve the discussion of policy when we come to token motions of Re. 1 reduction in the total allotment. It is there we can survey the whole of mankind from China to Peru. Let me just see whether there is any ruling to the contrary.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Under the circumstances, your present statement affords us convenience, because without waiting for the several items to come up we would be able to discuss the policy of the department.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: If I am wrong I must rectify myself. So let me know the previous ruling on the point.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): In Volume XVII page 582 there is a motion to reduce the allotment for the pay of higher grade clerks.

> "MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Ag. Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I rise to a point of order. This is a motion under a specific head, 'clerks of the Secretariat.' The object of the motion appears to be to point out "the inefficiency and irregularities in the General Administration". That is a question of general policy which cannot be allowed to be discussed under the specific head "Higher grade clerks".
>
> MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is the Law Member aware that such motions are allowed very often to be discussed and that they have been allowed to the extent that they related to the work of the clerks. The question of General Administrative policy and the General Administration does not, it is true, arise.
>
> PRESIDENT: I take it that Mr. Pachu Pillai will confine himself to a consideration of the work of these clerks, the expenditure on whose establishment he wants to cut down. If Mr. Pachu Pillai is going to do that I will allow him to discuss the motion."

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I know we have been violating that rule all along.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): And, we, on this side of the House, have always been in very great difficulty in tabling motions and in moving them here.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Can you refer me to any other ruling, Mr. Asan?

Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai, you are not aware of any other ruling on the subject?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The practice has been, Sir, to discuss such policy as could be relevantly brought within the purpose for which the allotment, proposed to be cut, is provided in the Budget.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The real object of the sender of the motion would then be restricted.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It is only a question of the relevancy of the matter raised, to the allotment proposed to be cut; that is to be decided by the President in each case.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The only thing I want to know is whether, under the Head of Establishment, I could allow the discussion of the general policy of the Department.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, I was asked to refer to another ruling. In Volume XVII, page 625, it is stated:

> "Mr. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Such matters have been allowed to be discussed here under establishment. It was done here on the first day in connection with the Land Revenue Department and other Departments as well. When it comes to the General Administration which is a matter which the members want to discuss, the Law Member stands up and brings forward an objection.
>
> "PRESIDENT: That is not a correct statement. As I had told you even in the case of Demand I there were several motions that were ruled out on this ground and I specifically stated the reasons why they were ruled out. It may happen that among a large number of motions one or two small motions might have escaped notice. That does not mean that these motions are according to the rules. As a matter of fact I ruled on the first day that only matters relating to the particular section from the allotment for which the cut is proposed, could be discussed as a general rule. I gave that ruling on the first day. As a consequence of that ruling several motions were ruled out. So it is not correct to say that has been the practice here. It might be that one or two points might have been raised under such motions, which do not strictly come under them. But it is not correct to say that the ruling is new."

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: My attention has been drawn by Mr. Asan to two rulings in pages 583 and 625 of Volume XVII. No doubt, it has been the practice, occasionally, to discuss the question of policy of the Department under the Head of Establishment or T. A., though, strictly interpreting the Rules and Standing Orders, such discussion can be permitted only when there is a token motion for a cut in the total allotment for the particular item. Now that my attention has been specifically drawn to the rulings in this Council on former occasions, only one of two courses is open to me. If motions 246,247 and 248 are to be regarded as token motions for the purpose of discussing the general policy, I think, in the light of the rulings that

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[Deputy President.]

Mr. Asan has referred to, I should have to rule the motions out of order ; or, in the alternative, it is open to the members in whose names the motions stand, to confine their discussion within the narrow compass of the particular item the provision for which they propose to reduce. There is also an earlier ruling in page 291 of Volume XI to which also my attention is now being drawn. It runs as follows :

> "I rule that, on a token motion, for a nominal cut in any item in the budget, any question of policy relating to that item may be discusssed. But if the discussion goes upon matters not raised by the mover, the vote of the House may not amount to a decision on the matter raised by him. If any matter is raised by a subsequent token motion, the President will decide whether the vote of the House on a previous token motion did, in fact, amount to a decision on that same matter. This ruling is provisional."

I do not think we have gone far beyond the stage at which that ruling has left us. A more satisfactory course which I would now suggest for the consideration and adoption by the members is this ; allow me to rule all these motions as being out of order, proceed as quickly as possible to the token motions which propose reductions in the total allotment and there discuss the question of the general policy of the department. If you are very particular of making your motions, Mr. Tarakan and others, you may do so ; but you will have to restrict your discussion strictly to the policy of the department so far as it relates to the Establishment, the allotment for which you seek to cut.

Motions 246 to 250.

The following motions were not made :

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA TARAKAN :

246. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,937 for establishment by Rs. 3.

MR. K. I. KOCHUPPAN MAPPILLA :

247. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,937 for establishment by Rs. 100.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

248. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,937 for establishment by Rs. 100.

COMMISSIONER—*Allowances.*

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

249. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,200 for travelling allowances by Rs. 1,600.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :

250. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,200 for travelling allowances by Rs. 1,000.

Motion 251.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*) : May I discuss the question of tariff policy, Sir, under this motion ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : No.

Motions 251 to 255.

The following motions were not made :

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN :

251. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,200 for travelling allowances by Rs. 10.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH :

252. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,200 for travelling allowances by Rs. 50.

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MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN :
253. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,200 for travelling allowances by Rs. 100.

MR. K. I. KOCHEEPPAN MAPPILLA :
254. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,200 for travelling allowances by Rs. 200.

MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR :
255. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,200 for travelling allowances by Rs. 200.

Motion 256.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Can you discuss your points under the amount for the transport of opium and ganja, Mr. Tarakan ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The object of the motion seems to be to talk about opium eating, and all that. Could that be done under this motion which relates to the *transport* of opium ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I think Mr. Tarakan, if you do not want to discuss the question of the cost or the method of transport of opium and ganja, if you want to discuss the general policy of the department in regard to opium and ganja, better not move this motion. We shall carry on till the general token motion and under them I shall allow you to discuss everything about the policy of the department. I suppose we have five hours for this demand. We have ample time.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Only 2½ hours.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : When did we begin ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : At 3 20.

Motion 256.

The following motion was not made :

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA TARAKAN :
To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for transport of opium and ganja by Rs. 5

Motion 257.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : It is understood that there are more important matters for discussion here, and therefore, as a matter of principle, I am refraining from moving this motion now.

The following motion was not therefore made :

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI :
To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,194 for supplies and services and contingencies by Rs. 100.

Motion 258.

The following motion was not made ;

MR JOSEPH KUNJU :
To reduce the allotment of Rs. 36,331 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

Motion 259.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Sir, I beg to make the following motion :

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 36,331 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

My object in making this motion is to bring to the notice of this House the fact that the attitude of the Commissioner towards the prohibition movement is not what it ought to be.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Is there any other motion relating to the attitude of the Government?

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): No; generally we style it as the attitude of the *Commissioner* who is the Officer that comes here with the demand. Of course, the Government shoulder the blame and the responsibility.

Sir, it is admitted by the Government that the drink is an evil and that it must be avoided as far as possible, that they should check the drinking tendency of the people; they have also declared *temperance* as their policy.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Have not the Government accepted *prohibition* as their policy?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): No; they have accepted *temperance* as their policy.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): They have accepted *prohibition*, I think.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): They have *not* accepted *prohibition*, if I remember right. They have accepted *temperance*.

Even in respect of their professed policy of temperance, I wish to state that the attitude of the Excise Commissioner is far from satisfactory. Sir, the enlightened people of the country want to see that the prohibition movement is encouraged and that there is total abstinence from drinking. But the Commissioner views with great disfavour not only the prohibition movement but even the temperance movement. I am not now going to mention the advantages of lessening the drink, because they are too well known; and nobody dispputes them either. All that I wish to say is that, from the conduct of the Commissioner during the last 12 months towards the temperance propaganda in the country, it is clear that he has been using all methods, approved and unapproved, for putting down the temperance propaganda. It appers that the Commissioner thinks that it is his duty to see that the revenue of his department is always kept up on a high level. I know of several instances in which the Officers have been countenancing illicit and unauthorised tapping of trees because there was a strong movement in the country which prevented the contractors from conducting the shops and keeping them open. In my own place, Sir, about four shops were stopped for the last 4 or 5 months in the current year. But so many trees were allowed to be tapped unauthorisedly. The matter was brought to the notice of the Excise authorities, and the petitions which I received from some of the inhabitants of the Tekke Kara in Mavelikara were placed in the hands of the Excise Commissioner during the last Dhanu meeting of this Council. I also told him that the subordinate officers of the department were manipulating several things. When it was not possible for anybody to tap trees at Mavelikara, the Officers arranged for it to be brought to Mavelikara from places 6 or 7 miles off from Mavelikara. All these matters have been brought to the notice of the authorities of the department. It was not possible to draw the attention of the Commissioner himself in *all* these cases. The Officers of the Excise

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Department, colluded with those of the Police Department, and in Quilon, Mavelikara and other places the temperance movement was checked and the leaders were arrested and even kept under custody without any reason or justification whatsoever.

MR. L. A. BISHOP (*Commissioner of Police*): Only non-peaceful efforts were checked by the Police Department.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) I say, even peaceful workers were put to trouble.

MR. L. A. BISHOP (*Commissioner of Police*): I say, only non-peaceful.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The Courts have found that the gentlemen arrested were peaceful agitators, and it is not open to the Police Commissioner to suggest that they were non-peaceful.

MR. L. A. BISHOP (*Commissioner of Police*): Will the member be pleased to refer me to the judgments? In which cases, please?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The accuseds were all discharged.

MR. L. A. BISHOP (*Commissioner of Police*): In which cases, please?

MR A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I shall give just one instance. Eight persons were arrested in Tekke Kara, Mavelikara, by the Police. The matter was taken to the Second Class Magistrate's Court, Kayankulam. He refused to grant bail; and it went up to the Sessions Judge, Quilon; and he granted bail. Afterwards, I understand that no complaint was preferred at all.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: But, how does that show that the Excise and the Police Departments collude?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The arrests were of temperance workers.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): What did the Excise Department do?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): They colluded with the Police Department and arrested these eight persons whom the Court found were not guilty of any offence.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Police might have arrested these persons as a result of the representation by the Excise Department.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I do not know whether there was any written representation by the Excise Department to the Police Department The Police arrested innocent young men who advocated the cause of temperance. I would like to refer the Excise Commissioner to the report which was drawn up by some of us as a result of our enquiry about the incident at Shertallai. We took evidence from so many persons at Shertallai. It was clear that, in regard to all that took place at Shertallai, the Police and the Excise had colluded together, to put down the temperance propaganda. Sir, I do not want to prolong my argument on the question.

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MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): In regard to prohibition, is Mr. Asan agreeable to a law being enacted under which persons who drink would be liable to punishment, say, with rigorous imprisonment for three years?.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): First of all, let us have a law punishing the man who sells liquor and who affords a temptation to the people to drink.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May I take it that Mr. Asan is not agreeable to the law which I suggest?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Let us first have the law that I suggest, and then we shall have the other.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, the Law Member asked Mr. Asan, just now, whether he would be prepared to accept a law making drink punishable by imprisonment for three years. Personally, I am agreeable to that law. I am quite prepared to accept frankly such a law. That would be, I think, an exhibition of the earnestness on the part of the Government that they are against drink. But, I do not know whether, in the present circumstances, the Government would promulgate that law; because, I find that the Government are against prohibition, not because they do not realise that it is an evil, but because of the temptation on account of the revenue that they get from it. That is the main difficulty with regard to the Excise Department. The Excise Department is manned by human beings; it is no wonder, therefore, that, when the collection work and the prevention work is combined in the same set of individuals, they do not attend to the prohibition work which would surely result in the diminution of the revenue. Prevention can be effectively done only by a separate body which is not responsible for the revenue from the department. Unless the prevention work is entrusted to a separate agency, human nature being what it is, it is impossible to expect both the prevention and the collection work being done satisfactorily. All these difficulties arise because the Government say one thing and *act* quite otherwise. They say that they are going to make it increasingly difficult, for the drunkard to get drink, by raising the prices. If really, without any quibbling, the Government mean what they say and follow that policy why should these shops be given over for lower sums than in the previous years? If there is nobody forthcoming to take the shops on higher amounts or at least on the same amounts as in the previous year, close the shops, if you are really going to make it increasingly difficult, for the consumer to get drink, by raising the price Government do not do that. I know, the Excise Commissioner and the Police Commissioner, in their official capacity and also in their private capacity, by transferring officers whom they consider most capable among their officers, to difficult stations where there is active temperance propaganda or prohibition movement, try their level best to see that *all* the shops are taken on contract and that the sales go on and drinks are made available to the

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drunkards in as many places as possible. The authorities of the Excise Department even wish to preach that the drunkards are human beings worthy of being worshipped simply because they drink and contribute to the revenues of Government I have even heard rumours about the Government refusing to allow funds for roads and other public works for those particular localities, where, on account of the prohibition movement, the excise revenue to Government had fallen. For instance, in Paravur in the Quilon Division, where all the liquor shops were closed and where there was no one to bid the shops on account of the prohibition movement, it is alleged that the roads and bridges were all left in disrepair because the Government would not allow any money for maintenance there, since the people's prohibition activities led to a decrease in the excise revenue from that locality.

MR. L. A. BISHOP (*Commissioner of Police*) : Perhaps the roads were cut up by picketers walking along up and down them.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : If the Police Commissioner is suggesting it as a bit of humour, there is absolutely not humour in it If this remark is made seriously it is so manifestly absurd that it does not deserve a reply.

In his reply, Sir, the Excise Commissioner is going to point out the figures in the Report of his department and claim credit for the reduction in the number of trees tapped and in the number of gallons of liquor consumed. In regard to that matter his Report says :

"Licenses were given during the year for tapping 93,290 cocoanut trees, 14,169 palmyrahs and 21,027 chundapanas against 98,844 cocoanut trees, 14,152 palmyrahs and 21,392 chundapanas in 1104."

Perhaps the Excise Commissioner may stand up and say that since there is a reduction in the number of trees tapped and in the quantity of liquor consumed, it should be inferred that the department has been working for the ideal of prohibition. But in the Report, throughout, he seems to be afraid even to refer to prohibition. He simply says 'we will make it increasingly difficult for the drunkard, to get his drink, by raising the prices.'

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Does the Excise Commissioner accept, in his Report, that the department does at least *temperance* work ?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : No, not even that. I think Sir, that is very significant.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : May I point out to my friend that the Excise Commissioner, in his Report, has *used* the *word* '*temperance*" at page 31 ? He says

"Remission to the extent of Rs. 510-14-0 has been recommended for arrack shops Nos. 1 and 2 and toddy shop No. 1 of the Quilon taluk on account of loss caused by the obstructionist policy of *temperance* agitators....."

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : I wish to point out to Government and to the Excise Commissioner that the number of liquor shops in Travancore is dis-proportionately large and that the people of the country have not been able to induce the Government seriously to

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[Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai].

take to the policy of prohibition. The Government of Madras, everybody knows, has contributed more than Rs. 3 lakhs for prohibition work while the Excise Commissioner here is satisfied with calling the temperance workers, among the people, 'unreasonable agitators' who do not realise the possibilities of illict tapping. He seems to think, Sir, that by merely pricking the trees with a knife one can get toddy. Sir, *we* also know what tapping is. It is an elaborate process. If you ask the toddy-drawers they would tell you how difficult their work is. They have to work for hours together. Sometimes we can see them tapping the trees with their head downwards. I should think it is really a very difficult work.

I do not think that trees will yield toddy by mere pricking with a knife. It is an elaborate process. I think the toddy drawers will say that their work is most difficult. We have seen them at work assiduously trying to bring toddy upwards which is at the bottom. They incur a lot of odium after doing a lot of work. For all this they are condemned as drepressed classes and untouchables. We find even from that community there is a strong protest against the toddy drawers. I was told that for encouraging them as much as Rs. 80 and Rs. 90 were given to toddy-drawers to climb the heights of the trees during the days when the prohibition movement stood at its height. With regard to the number of shops.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your time is up. I will allow you 2 minutes more.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): In Bombay, you have got only 6571 shops, in Bengal you have only 3,028, shops in the United Provinces only 4,075 in the Punjab only 1,621 in Delhi only 26 and in Coorg only 80; while in Travancore we have got 1,744 shops, with its boasted enlightenment, education and the paternal nature of the Government !

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): And in addition to that there are 37 foreign liquor shops with A and B licenses.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): What about Madras ?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): You should go in for the highest figures. All these are instances which are quite sufficient for the purpose. It is not for your arguments, that I am giving these figures. With regard to the incident of taxation the lowest is in Travancore. In Bomby you get Rs. 2, in Delhi Re. 1 annas 13, in Coorg, Rs. 2 annas 3, in Madras Re. 1 annas 4, whereas in Travancore it is Re. 1 cash 7.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Does it not show that there is less liquor drunk in the country ?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): No. It is because liquor is cheaper. That is the only inference that we can draw.

With regard to prohibition, I would very much welcome a law as the Law Member has suggested. If anybody is found drunk in public

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Government Officials—I want to make that point also very clear—if they are found they must lose their jobs and they must be imprisoned for three years as was suggested.

I have to suggest one more point and I will do it in a minute and stop. That is with regard to the commercial portion of the work of the Commissioner. I would suggest that a man who knows something about commerce should be put in charge. A special commercial department of Government with a bureau of statistics to give information about the markets in India and the world should be organised. I have very much to say about it but since there is no time I stop.

MR. K. P. KOCHU KORA TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*) : മി: ആശാൻ അവതരിപ്പിച്ച ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ഞാൻ പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു. കള്ളുഷാപ്പും ചാരായഷാപ്പും തിരുവാംക്കൂറിലുള്ള മറ്റുതാലൂക്കിലുള്ളതിനെക്കാളും കൂടുതൽ കുന്നത്തുനാടുതാലൂക്കിൽ ആണുള്ളതെന്നു എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽനിന്നുതന്നെ വ്യക്തമാകുന്നുണ്ട്. അതുനിമിത്തമുള്ള ഉപദ്രവം മനസിലാക്കാൻ വേണ്ടുവോളം സൌകര്യം എനിക്കുണ്ട് ഇവിടെ ഉള്ളവർക്കും ഉണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : റോഡിനു സൌകര്യമില്ലെങ്കിലും ഷാപ്പു കൂടുതൽ ഉണ്ടെന്നാണോ പറയുന്നത്?

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*) : റോഡിൽനിന്നും ഒരടിമാത്രം അകലെയായിട്ടാണ് അവിടെ കള്ളുഷാപ്പുകൾ സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്നതു. അവിടെയുള്ള ദുർഗന്ധവും വൃത്തികേടും ഇത്രമാത്രമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞറിയിക്കാൻ പ്രയാസം. അവിടെ ചീത്തവാക്കുകൾമാത്രമേ ഉപയോഗിക്കുകയുള്ളൂ. ഞാനിതിനെപ്പറ്റി പരാതിപറഞ്ഞിട്ടും ഇതുവരെ ഷാപ്പ് അവിടെനിന്നും മാറ്റിക്കിട്ടിയിട്ടില്ല.

നാല്പത്തിരണ്ടു ചാരായഷാപ്പുകളും തൊണ്ണൂറിയേഴു കള്ളുഷാപ്പുകളും ഈ താലൂക്കിലുണ്ട്. വിദേശ മദ്യഷാപ്പുകൾ അവിടെ ഇല്ലെന്നു ഒരാശ്വാസം ഉണ്ട്. ഇത്രത്തോളം കള്ളുഷാപ്പുകളും ചാരായഷാപ്പുകളും ഉണ്ടെങ്കിലും കുന്നത്തുനാടുതാലൂക്കിൽ മദ്യവർജ്ജനപ്രസ്ഥാനം ഇതുവരെ ആരംഭിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ചെത്തലെയുണ്ടായ പ്രഹരത്തെ ഭയന്നിട്ടാണ് ഈ നാട്ടുകാർ ഈ വിധത്തിലിരിക്കുന്നതു. അല്ലാതെ കള്ളുകുടി ചീത്തയാണെന്നു അവർക്കുതോന്നാത്തതുകൊണ്ടല്ല. ഗവണ്മെൻറു് മദ്യവർജ്ജനത്തെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിനു് കള്ളുഷാപ്പുകളുടെ സംഖ്യ നൂറിനു പത്തുവീതം ആണ്ടുതോറും കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതായാൽ ഈ പരാതിക്കു ശമനമുണ്ടാകുന്നതാണു്. കള്ളുഷാപ്പു പിടിച്ചവരിൽ പലരും തുക കൊടുക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെ വിട്ടുപോയിട്ടുണ്ടു. ആ ഷാപ്പുകളുടെ എണ്ണത്തിൽ കുറച്ചു

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[Mr. K. P. Kochukora Tarakan].

നാലുഷാപ്പിനു ഒന്നു എന്നോമറോ ഒരു തോതുവച്ചു രണ്ടാമതുംലേലംചെയ്യുന്നപക്ഷം ഷാപ്പുകളുടെഎണ്ണത്തിൽ കുറയുന്നതിനും അതുജനങ്ങൾക്കുപകാരമായിതീരുന്നതിനും ഇടയുണ്ട്. കുന്നത്തുനാടുതാലൂക്കിൽ ഉള്ള ഷാപ്പുകളുടെ എണ്ണത്തിൽ ആണ്ടുതോറും പത്തൊപതിനഞ്ചോ ഇരുപതോ വീതം കുറച്ചു് ഇതിനെ അവിടെനിന്നും നിശ്ശേഷംകളയേണ്ടതാണു്, ചാരായഷാപ്പുകളുടെ എണ്ണവും കുറയ്ക്കണം. പന ചെത്താൻകൊടുക്കുന്നതു ആദായമാണെങ്കിൽ അതിൽനിന്നുകിട്ടുന്ന അക്കാനി എടുക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു തരക്കേടില്ല. അതു് ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് ആഹാരസാധനമായി തീരുന്നതാണു്. പനയിൽനിന്നു് അക്കാനി ചെത്തിയെടുക്കാൻ ഇപ്പോഴും അനുവാദം കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് പന ചെത്തുന്നതുനിമിത്തം ആദായകരമാണെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നു എങ്കിൽ അതിൽനിന്നു് അക്കാനിമാത്രം എടുത്തുകൊള്ളുന്നതിനനുവദിക്കുകയും അല്ലാത്തവക്കു ചെത്താൻ അനുവാദം കൊടുക്കാതിരിക്കയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണു്. പന ചെത്താൻ കൊടുക്കുന്നതുനിമിത്തം ധാരാളം വഴക്കുകളുണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ കണക്കിൽനിന്നുതന്നെ വ്യക്തമാകുന്നുണ്ടു്.

ചാരായഷാപ്പും കള്ളുഷാപ്പും റോഡിൽനിന്നു നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളിടത്തോളം നൂറുവാര അകലെ എങ്കിലും സ്ഥാപിക്കണമെന്നുകൂടി പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു വിരമിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): I am afraid, Sir, if the arrack shops are located one hundred feet beyond roads, that may tend to encourage drink. Many people may go in and do secretly what they would be ashamed to do publicly.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): കള്ളുകുടിയന്മാക്കു ഷെയിം ഉണ്ടാകുകയില്ലല്ലൊ. അതിനു നാറ്റംഉണ്ടെന്നു മെമ്പക്കു അറിയാമൊ?

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): അതിൽ പഴക്കമുള്ള ആളുകൾക്കല്ലെ അതു് അറിയാൻ സൌകര്യമുള്ളതു്?

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): I have got much experience of this department. I was 30 years ago an Inspector in this department.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Thirty years ago!

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): You will see the relevancy of that observation if you wait for the next sentence. Thirty years ago I was an Excise Inspector. I can tell this House that in those days there was no policy of reduction in the number of shops. But there is one thing to be said. I have not reckoned the total number now. But I

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find in very conspicuous places shops which we did not find in those days. This House must remember the very familiar figure of Mr. Hoogewerf who used to be harping upon one topic,—the shop near the Catholic Church at Pettah. Even to-day that shop is there notwithstanding all this protest. There is an elementary school in the neighbourhood. The shops are located in Trivandrum very near schools and churches and temples and the main road. There was no shop on the main road in those days. Now I find a temptation is held out to students, to bad types of students, who go by this road after 4 o' clock and seeing the attractive advertisements given, to go to the shop and drink toddy arrack. In the statue road, there is an arrack shop. I think that was an old arrack shop which was known as Alumood arrack shop. But this main road arrack shop is absolutely new. I mean new com-paratively. My experience was of 30 years ago.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : Does the member know the total number of shops that existed 30 years ago when he was an Inspector or somebody?

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): An Inspector, not somebody. I protest against that disrespectful way of referring to a member as somebody and all that.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Is it a fact that toddy is a nourishing beverage ?

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*) : I am not aware of that. I am told that when it is not fermented it is a very good beverage and that it is a drink fit for gods.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): It is not intended for man ?

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*) : It contains very assimilable food, bone-forming and flesh-forming materials. But when fermented it is an intoxicant. It is different from sweet toddy. The Juice of cocoanut is a very agreeable thing. But once it is fermented and it contains alcoholl, all the evils which every one knows follows from it. It was pointed out that the whole grant will lapse if I continue my speech. So I will stop now and say that it is better we substitute for this abkari revenue something else less objectionable. The revenue from abkari should not be counted upon. It is neither for the good nor the peace of mankind nor for frugality and economy.

MR. C. N. TUPPAN NAMPUTIRIPAD (*Jenmies*): മി: ആശാൻ ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ച ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ഞാനും പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു. എനിക്ക് ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുമായിട്ട നല്ല പരിചയം ഇല്ലെങ്കിലും ഞാൻ താമസിക്കുന്നതിനടുത്തു ചില ഷാപ്പുകൾ സ്ഥിതി ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് അവയുടെ നില എപ്രകാരമായിരിക്കുമെന്നു അറിയാനിടയായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ ഷാപ്പുകൾ ഇരിക്കുന്ന പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ സാമാന്യജനങ്ങൾക്കു സഞ്ചരിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കാത്തവിധത്തിലാണ് അവയുടെ നില. എന്നാൽ എ

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[Mr. C. N. Tuppan Namputiripad.]

ക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണരൊ എക്സൈസ്സ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ മറ്റുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരോ അതല്ല വേറെഏതെങ്കിലും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരോ ആ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ വരുന്ന എങ്കിൽ—സാധാരണ അങ്ങനെ വരിക പതിവില്ല എങ്കിലും അവരാരെങ്കിലും വരുന്ന എങ്കിൽ—ഈ ഷാപ്പുകളിൽ ഒരു ഉപദ്രവവും ഇല്ല. വളരെ മര്യാദയായിട്ട പെരുമാറുന്നുണ്ട്. അല്ലാതെ സാധുക്കളാരെങ്കിലും ഷാപ്പിൻെറ അടുത്തുകൂടി സഞ്ചരിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ—പബ്ലിക്ക സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലാണ് ഈഷാപ്പുകൾ സ്ഥിതി ചെയ്യുന്നതെന്ന മി: തരകൻ ഇവിടെപറഞ്ഞു—അവർ വിഷമിക്കാതെ ഒരുനിവൃത്തിയുമില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ട ഈ ഷാപ്പുകളുടെ നിലയെ ഒന്ന ഭേദഗതി ചെയ്തില്ലെങ്കിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് വളരെ സങ്കടമാണ്. മദ്യവർജ്ജനം എന്നുള്ള സംഗതിയിൽ എക്സൈസ്സ് കമ്മീഷണർ ഒരു നല്ല നയം സ്വീകരിക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇപ്പോൾ ജനങ്ങളെ കുറെനിർബന്ധിച്ചിട്ടെങ്കിലും മദ്യം വിൽപ്പിക്കണം എന്നൊരഭിപ്രായം കൂടി ഇല്ലേ എന്ന തോന്നിപ്പോകുന്നുണ്ട്. കോട്ടയത്ത ഒരു ഷാപ്പു കെട്ടുന്നതിന സ്ഥലം ആരും കൊടുത്തില്ല. അവർ നല്ലവണ്ണം അന്വേഷിച്ച നോക്കിയിട്ടും സ്ഥലം കിട്ടാതെ വരികയാൽ പുഴയിലുള്ള രണ്ടു വള്ളങ്ങളെക്കൂട്ടിച്ചേർത്തു ചങ്ങാടമാക്കി അതിൽവച്ച വില്പന നടത്തുകയും ചെയ്തത എൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽപെട്ട ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്. വളരെ ഭഗീരഥപ്രയത്നം ചെയ്തിട്ടും തീരെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെ ആണ്—ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും വളരെ പ്രയത്നം ചെയ്ത—ചങ്ങാടത്തിൽവച്ച വില്പന നടത്തിയത്. ആരും അവിടെ കൂടിക്കാൻ പോകാതിരുന്നതിനാൽ അതിനെ അവിടെ നിന്നും മാറ്റേണ്ടിയും വന്ന. അതു കൊണ്ട ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ കാണിക്കുന്ന നയം മാറ്റി വേറൊരു നയം സ്വീകരിച്ചാൽ നന്നായിരിക്കും.

ഷാപ്പുകൾ കൺട്രാക്ട് പിടിച്ച ആളുകൾക്ക ഇപ്പോൾ വളരെനഷ്ടം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ട്. ഈ നഷ്ടത്തെ പരിഹരിച്ച കൊടുക്കണമെന്ന് ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോട അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നും ഉണ്ട്, എന്നാൽ ആദ്യം ലേലം ചെയ്ത കൊടുത്ത തുകയിൽനിന്ന നിശ്ചയമായി ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ കുറച്ചുകൊടുക്കാൻ പാടില്ല. (Mr. K, Kunjukrishna Pillai Hear hear) അവർ അനാവശ്യമായി ആകൃഷനിൽ ചേർന്നതു കൊണ്ടു നഷ്ടം വരുന്ന എങ്കിൽ അവർ അതു സഹിക്കണം. അതു നിമിത്തം ഗവണ്മെൻറിന ആദായം ഉണ്ടാവുകയും ചെയ്യും. പക്ഷെ ഈ ആദായത്തെ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്ക സദാചാരത്തിനുപയുക്തമായ രീതിയിൽ പ്രദാനം ചെയ്യുകയാണ്

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വേണ്ടതു്. ഈ നയമനുസരിച്ചു എക്സൈസ്സു് കമ്മീഷണർ പെരുമാറണമെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായത്തോടുകൂടി ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ അനുകൂലിച്ചു കൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): Sir, In supporting the motion, I have to say that the department should make all efforts to discontinue the abkari section altogether. I mean the abkari section may be completely abolished except as a preventive branch. Government revenue from that side is not a very healthy one. In agreeing with my friends in that respect, I have further to state that where people trust and co-operate with the Government in their ways of making some revenue to the Government, the Government should also try to help them in return. The shop contractors who find themselves unable to realise and pay up the contract amount must be given a substantial reduction in the amounts undertaken by them to be paid to the Government. Many people, they say, are not able to realise even 50 per cent. of the amounts contracted for. If the Government think that no pie can be reduced from the contract rate that will be very hard upon the contractors. I say they really trusted the Government, they thought that the Government would consider their case sympathetically in the event of emergency and depression beyond their control. Those people should certainly be helped by Government by granting substantial reductions from the amounts originally fixed by the contracts.

MR. RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): ലേലത്തുക കുറച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി കണ്ടാക്ടേഴ്സിനു് ഒരു പ്രോത്സാഹനമായിട്ടല്ലെ തീരുമാനം.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): They might take a lesson that such things will not be repeated. They may be given a direction that if they come again for such contract they stand the risk.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know from the member whether the contractors at the time of bidding did it with their eyes open?

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): They did it expecting the continuation of things as they were at the time of the auction. But circumstances have since changed.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Does the member know that there was the prohibition movement some time before the auction?

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): It is not because of the prohibition movement only that these people are made to suffer now? The unexpected and unforeseen economic depression has contributed to the complaint mainly. If in spite of the prohibition movement they took up these contracts, of course, they may be taught a lesson by not giving any reduction. But my point is that they

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[Mr. K. P. Abraham].

undertook the contract not against that or any other policy of the Government but thinking that the Government would help them in making money. That will be only a commercial policy. In that aspect they have to be favoured by the Government by some good reduction.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Will it not be an inducement for people to bid next time?

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*) : If sufficient attraction is given to the people I think they may take advantage of that.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Does the member know that resales of shops fetched larger amounts?

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*) : I am not aware.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Your time is up.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*) : With regard to another branch of the department.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Probably you ignore me. Your time is up.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*) : I beg to be excused.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): Sir, I rise to support the motion of Mr. Asan. Sir, the abkari policy of Government has been stated to be to make it increasingly difficult for the consumer to obtain drink. May I ask the Commissioner what practical measures or steps have been taken by the Government to give effect to this policy? The policy as it stands is a vague and indefinite policy not capable of fruition in the near future. I want that the Government or the department should place before themselves a definite policy with a definite goal to be reached within a definite period. The policy as it is is vague and indefinite. I would call it no policy at all. Even taking it as it stands, may I not ask of the Government to take some steps towards giving effect to their policy? May I not urge a gradual reduction of the number of shops by at least 10 per cent every year or during every biennial contract period? As a practical measure, I would suggest the abolition of drink in the Shencotta taluk, particularly because circumstances are very favourable for the introduction of prohibition in Shencotta. Shencotta by reason of its isolation from other taluks in Travancore is very much suited for the experiment of prohibition.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Prohibition has been introduced in Tenkasi.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): I am coming to that.

To add to it, the neighbouring British taluk of Tenkasi is under prohibition. I understand that the experiment in Tenkasi is very satisfactory. The only difficulty that the British Government are encountering is probably the existence of liquor shops in Shencotta. If the Shencotta taluk is put under prohibition the experiment will prove a definite

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success both from the point of view of the Travancore Government and to the convenience of the British Government in adding to the policy of the prohibition movement in Tenkasi. There is a further advantage in that the people of Shencotta will not find it possible to obtain drink either from British India or Pattanapuram isolated as they are by the ghats on the western side. I would suggest in all seriousness for the consideration of Government to introduce prohibition at least in Shencotta from the commencement of the next biennial contract. With these words, I support the motion of Mr. Damodaran Asan.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*) : Sir, is it not time for us to adjourn?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : If it is time for adjourning, I will announce. it. You have got five minutes more.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : We would like to hear the Excise Commissioner.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : Sir—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You can speak for five minutes to-day and continue your remarks tomorrow. For such time as you want.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : I want half an hour.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I cannot make any promise. We close at 5-15 to-day. It is now 5-10 so that you will have five minutes to-day. You can continue tomorrow also.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : I will have to stop somewhere in the middle and pick up the trend tomorrow.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : If you can choose. It should not be stated that I interfered with the privilege of the House to have five hours for discussion.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : Sir, the problem before the House is a very difficult one for solution. It taxes the energy of the greatest statesman of the world. Even now it is a burning question in most of the civilised countries. In British India it looms large in Council Hall debates, public discussions and platform speeches. Coming nearer home, in Travancore itself, that policy has been well-threshed out on the floor of this House. In other places also, in the Press and on the platform it has not attracted less notice. I mention these things just to show the immensity and the gravity of the problem before us. Far be it from me to suggest that it is a problem to be ignored on that account. I only want my friends to understand the gravity of the problem, to understand it from the view point in which I want them to understand.

Even in point of age it is as old as the human race. We find it mentioned in the Vedas ; it finds mention in the Smrities ; and in the Puranas. Here I want to make one or two quotations so as to make my position stronger.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Is it drink or prohibition that is old ?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : There cannot be any prohibition without drink.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: What he means to say is that there is no legal prohibition

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Referring to the use of spirits among the ancient Hindus the Bengal Excise Commission observed: —

> "Dr. Rajendra lal Mitra in a very learned and interesting paper contributed by him to the Asiatic Society's journal, Volume XLII, Part I, for 1873, shows conclusively by a profusion of instances taken from Sanskrit literature ancient and mediaeval, that spirits and other intoxicating drinks have been extensively used in India at all times and by all classes.....that there could be no mistake that the art of distillation was known and widely practised and that different kinds of spirits of intoxicating nature were in use.' Dr. Rajendralal Mitra pointed out that Pulastya, an ancient sage and the author of one of the original smrities, enumerated 12 different kinds of liquor besides the soma beer, which is not usually reckoned under the head of Madya and that his successors added largely to the list."

It will be remembered that law courts were mentioned by this sage.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Does the member know that murder existed during the Puranic ages?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes. I am coming to that. In another place it is stated —

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is a source of revenue according to Kautilaya's *Arthasastra*.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): In another place it is stated

> "The Rig Veda refers often to wine and its uses. The distillation of arrack from toddy probably existed in 800 B. C. in India and long before that in Ceylon."

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is it dearth of new texts that takes the member to Puranic ages?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please wait, Mr. Asan.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The time is limited.

MR. RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): മനസ്മൃതിയിൽ എങ്ങനെ സ്പാളിസിയെപ്പറ്റി വല്ലതും പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതുംകൂടി വായിച്ചുകേട്ടാൽകൊള്ളാം, (ചിരി)

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): We pass on to the Moghul period.

MR. TUPPAN NAMPUTIRIPAD (*Jennies*): കലിയുഗത്തിലെ സ്മൃതിയിൽ ഇതിനെ നിരോധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നറിയാമൊ?

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) Was there prohibition at that time?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I am not aware of that.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: We will stop now. It is an interesting account and we will resume it tomorrow.

The Council adjourned at 5-15 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. the next day.

P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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